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NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 13

Release Date: March 1, 2007

Report Issued Today on Ethnicity, Gender of California Judges

San Francisco—The Administrative Office of the Courts today released a report that contains aggregate demographic data on the ethnicity and gender of California judges and justices. It is available on the California Courts Web site at http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_38sb56.htm.

The report complies with Senate Bill 56, legislation passed last year that created 50 new judgeships in state trial courts. SB 56 also amended Government Code section 12011.5(n) to require the AOC “to collect and release aggregate demographic data relative to the ethnicity and gender of judges and justices, by specific jurisdiction, on or before March 1, 2007, and annually thereafter.”

The Governor and the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluations of the State Bar of California (JNE Commission) also are required to release aggregate demographic data on the ethnicity and gender of judicial applicants. The statute specifically provides that the data released by the AOC, the Governor, and the JNE Commission under this new requirement shall not identify any individual applicant, judge, or justice.

The report includes charts prepared by the AOC that show:

- (1) the overall gender and ethnicity of justices and judges in the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and trial courts;
- (2) the gender of justices and judges by jurisdiction—for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal by district, and trial courts by county;
- (3) the ethnicity/race of justices and judges by jurisdiction; and
- (4) the specific ethnicity/race reported by those justices and judges who indicated that they considered themselves to be of more than one ethnicity/race.

Increasing the diversity of California’s judicial officers to reflect the rich diversity of California’s populace continues to be an important goal of the Judicial Council of California.

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest

court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

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